

Project Summary Sheet

Project Name: Spears Ranch Acquisition

Tracking No: 4014

Location: Garden Bar, northeast of Lincoln

County: Placer County

Project Sponsor: Placer County Planning Department

Point of Contact: Loren Clark, Principal Planner, Placer County Planning Department (530) 886-3000

Co-applicant(s): None

Assembly District: #1

Senate District: #4

Project Description (including size):

Placer County is partnering with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to acquire the 961-acre Spears Ranch property located along Coon Creek. A portion of the property will be maintained for cattle grazing, while a passive park will be created on the balance of the property. The County intends to manage the park in an environmentally sensitive manner in order to protect, in perpetuity, the biological resources present.

Flood Benefits:

The project is designed to create a more normally functioning floodplain by lowering banks and planting them with suitable native species. While not directly improving downstream flooding, protection of the property from development will ensure that additional runoff and/or sedimentation does not cause increase downstream flooding in areas with low stream gradients and sediment deposition.

Agricultural Benefits:

At this time, the County plans to lease a portion of the property for cattle grazing. Moderate grazing, carefully managed, will be acceptable in some riparian areas, and may be necessary in some areas to control Himalayan blackberry. Grazing by goats, sheep, or other livestock may also be appropriate. All grazing activities within and adjacent to riparian corridors, as well as condition of grazed areas, will be closely monitored.

Agricultural Land Conserved, if any: 961 acres.

Wildlife Benefits:

Habitat restoration on the acquired property will provide and/or enhance in-stream habitat for warm-water fish and aquatic invertebrates, and enhance riparian habitat for wildlife. Restoration activities will include removal of Himalayan

blackberry and other nonnative understory plant species, bank stabilization through the planting of willow stakes (cuttings), and the revegetation of the riparian corridor through the planting of native riparian plants.

Wildlife Habitat Conserved if any: 961 acres

Total area conserved: 961 acres

Other Benefits:

One of the County's goals is to acquire and develop a public park for passive recreational use. Successful acquisition of the Spears Ranch property will provide the site control necessary to establish the County park. Once in public ownership, moreover, Spears Ranch will be the first publicly-owned property along Coon Creek, and its acquisition will set a precedent for further acquisitions (conservation easement and fee title) in the watershed.

Total Cost: \$ 3,976,000

FPCP Cost: \$ 500,000

Funding Partners and Share of Cost:

Amount of Local Funds Contributed - \$ 1,977,070

Amount of In-Kind Contributions - \$ 144,000

Packard Foundation - \$ 500,000

Riparian-Riverine (Resources Agency) - \$ 400,000

Sierra-Cascade (Resources Agency) - \$ 250,000

LWCF (State Parks) - \$204,000

Total Share Cost: - \$ 3,476,000